

ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1943

BY
G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

TOGETHER WITH
The Report
OF
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Members of the Council

Chairman :

T. H. COCHRANE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

SIR PERCY EVERETT

Members :

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Medical Officer of Health :

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector :

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Clerks :

MISS D. L. HOUGHTON

J. S. RUCK

(H.M. Forces since May 1943)

Public Health Department :

11 Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health of the district for the year 1943, which has been prepared on the lines recommended by the Minister of Health.

DIPHTHERIA

About 70 per cent. of the children under 15 in the district had completed the full course of immunisation at the close of the year under review. Schick tests were carried out in 303 cases of which 55 or 18 per cent. were positive and arrangements were made for a further inoculation in these cases.

SCABIES

The scheme for the treatment of scabies at the First Aid Post has now been in operation for more than a year. Up to the end of 1943, 161 persons, from 55 families, had been treated. In only one case was it necessary to serve notice, under the Scabies Order 1941, requiring an infested person to attend for medical examination. The patient's bedding is collected in every case, disinfested in the steam disinfector, and returned the same day, to coincide with the treatment of the patient at the First Aid Post. In only two cases has known reinfestation occurred and in these cases recovery was effected after a second treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 20 new cases during the year as against 16 in 1942, 19 in 1941, 9 in 1940 and 15 in 1939.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY

The incidence of scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough was satisfactorily low compared with previous years.

For the second year in succession there is not a single case of diphtheria to report; this is without precedent in the records of the past 25 years.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area: (Elstree 2,180, Ridge 2,521, Shenley 3,638)...	8,339 acres
Population, 1921 Census	4,513
Population, 1931 Census	6,400
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) resident population mid-1943*	
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates*	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to Rate Books ...	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;">{</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Elstree 1,936 Shenley 548 Ridge 75 </div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;">}</div> </div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 20px;">2,559</div>
Rateable Value (1st April, 1944)	£123,648
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1944)	£480

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Vide Annual Report for 1939.

VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate*				
	Illegitimate*				

Birth Rate: 18.6 per 1,000 *estimated*
resident population mid-1943

Stillbirths*	
Rate: 25.6 per 1,000 <i>total (live and</i> <i>still) births.</i>	

Deaths*	
Death Rate: 7.8 per 1,000 <i>estimated</i> <i>average population.</i>	

The Death Rates for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of London respectively are given as 12.1 and 15 per 1,000 population.

* Information not to be published—Circular 2604 of the Ministry of Health, 24th March, 1942.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
<i>Deaths from puerperal causes:—</i>		
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes ...	Nil	—
Total	Nil	—
<i>Death rates of infants under one year of age:—</i>		
All infants per 1,000 live births		36.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...		28.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		133.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		—

SECTIONS B, C, D, and E

Sections B to E dealing respectively with general provision of health services for the area, sanitary circumstances of the area, housing and food inspection have been omitted from my report as there is nothing noteworthy to add to the details given on pages 8 to 11 of my report for 1939. Statistics which fall within the purview of these sections are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, which opens on page 7.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 24 cases of Scarlet Fever all of which occurred in private households, and were removed to Hospital.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	24	—
Erysipelas	6	3	—
Measles	44	2	—
Whooping Cough	9	—	—
Pneumonia	7	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65
Scarlet Fever			1	2	2	15	3	1			
Erysipelas							1		2		3
Measles	1	5	6	5	9	13	1	1	3		
Whooping Cough	1	2	2	1		3					
Pneumonia			1			1		1		2	2
Dysentery											1

Tuberculosis—*New cases and mortality during 1943.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under one ...								
1—5 ...				3				
5—10 ...		1	1					
10—15 ...		3						
15—20 ...								
20—25 ...		1	1					
25—30 ...	1							
30—35 ...		1		1				
35—45 ...		2	1					
45—55 ...		1	1	1				
55—65 ...	1							
65 and up ...								
TOTAL	2	9	4	5	3	2	—	2

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

The keynote of my fifth Annual Report is the same austerity which characterised its forerunners. Once more, the year's work is presented through the inelegant medium of tables and statistics. It is worthy of note, I think, that no Statutory Notices were served during the year, the improvements effected being the outcome of informal action.

Civil Defence commitments continue to occupy a proportion of my time, yet there has been no slackening of effort in connection with public health matters, despite the fact that it has not been possible to replace a member of the staff who joined the Royal Navy in May 1943.

In many instances it has been necessary, at the request of owners, to serve *pro forma* notices in order that they may obtain the requisite materials for essential house repairs, especially where renewal of floorboards and other woodwork is needed.

The Council have themselves rendered a useful service by undertaking to supply dustbins, at cost price, to owners of private houses. I have found this arrangement of great value in the prompt replacement of dilapidated dustbins and my thanks are due to the Surveyor for his willing co-operation.

With wholehearted thanks for your continued confidence and support,

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,
Sanitary Inspector.

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Housing inspections	—
Housing re-inspections	3
Public Health Act inspections	44
Public Health Act re-inspections	96
Visits re overcrowding, including computation of permitted numbers	34
Visits in respect of:—	
Infectious diseases	107
Verminous premises	17
Accumulations	16
Animals	5
Bakehouses	10
Dirty houses	28
Drainage	130
Factories	25
Smoke	—
Shops	3
Water supply	26
Cowsheds	115
Dairies	137
Food Preparers	32
Meat Shops	20
Milk Shops	5
Slaughterhouses	67
Stables and piggeries	4
Dustbins	18
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)	13
Conveniences	3
Rats	57
Water Courses	89
Milk Samples	2
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TOTAL	1,106
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DETAILS OF INTIMATION AND STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Defects	No. of Notices served
General housing defects, including leaking roofs, dampness defective plaster, floors, windowframes, etc.	27
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act, 1936)	8
Drainage	32
Defective w.c. connections	3
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins	5
Choked and insanitary water courses	5
Filthy and/or verminous premises	4
Insufficient water supply	1
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Board)	4
Offensive accumulations	2
Improper keeping of animals	—
Dairies and cowsheds... ..	5
Food Preparers	1
Factories and Offices	5
Bakehouses	1
TOTAL	103

Statutory Notices

Nil

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Houses
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	6
Floors repaired	16
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed...	1
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	9
External brickwork repointed	4
Dirty rooms cleansed or redecorated	11
Dampness remedied	7
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed ...	5
Adequate water supply provided	1
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	37
W.c. and sink connections repaired... ..	6
Paving to yards and passages repaired	—
Dustbins provided	6
Water courses cleansed	7
Accumulations removed	1
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	—
Cowsheds and dairies limewashed	7
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	1
Cowshed approaches cleansed	—
Food preparers' premises improved	1
Rooms disinfected	29
Verminous houses disinfested	1
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	1
Factory defects remedied	4
Miscellaneous	5
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TOTAL	166

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	6	92	35	—	316
Number inspected	6	92	35	—	316
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	11	—	—	—
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ...	—	12	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	2	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	12	—	—	8
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with tuber- culosis	—	14	—	—	2.8

MILK AND DAIRIES ACT AND ORDERS

Number of accredited milk producers	14
Number of tuberculin tested milk producers	2
Number of other producers	6
Number of retail purveyors	11

During the year 257 inspections were made of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops.

Seventy-one samples were taken from Accredited and Tuberculin Tested farms in the district by the County Council.

The following table gives the results of these samples:—

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Failed Meth. Blue	Failed B. Coli	Failed Both
Accredited Milk ...	58	51	2	2	3
Tuberculin Tested Milk	7	6	—	—	1
School Milk	6	5	—	—	1

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	29
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Action under Statutory Powers During the Year	Nil
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